

CLAIMS

1. A charging method for determining an amount of payment for a maintenance service for a machine (15), comprising:
 - a quantifying step (S42) of quantifying productivity of said machine (15) in a
5 predetermined service period;
 - a comparing step (S43) of comparing the productivity quantified in said quantifying step (S42) with a predetermined productivity reference and calculating a difference between them; and
 - a charge amount determining step (S45) of determining a charge amount for said
10 maintenance service in said service period based on the difference calculated in said comparing step (S43).
2. The charging method according to claim 1, comprising a productivity reference determining step (S14) of determining said productivity reference by operating said machine (15) during a predetermined preliminary period and quantifying
15 productivity of said machine (15) in said preliminary period.
3. The charging method according to claim 1, wherein in said quantifying step (S42), the productivity of said machine (15) is quantified based on at least one of availability, uptime, and an amount of production.
4. The charging method according to claim 1, wherein in said charge amount
20 determining step (S45), the charge amount is determined by multiplying the calculated difference by a predetermined conversion rate.
5. A charging system for determining an amount of payment for a maintenance service for a machine (15), comprising:
 - quantifying means for quantifying productivity of said machine (15) in a
25 predetermined service period;
 - comparing means for comparing the quantified productivity with a predetermined productivity reference and calculating a difference between them; and

charge amount determining means for determining a charge amount for said maintenance service in said service period based on the calculated difference.

6. The charging system according to claim 5, comprising productivity reference determining means for determining the productivity reference by operating said machine 5 (15) during a predetermined preliminary period and quantifying productivity of said machine (15) in said preliminary period.

7. The charging system according to claim 5, wherein said quantifying means quantifies the productivity of said machine (15) based on at least one of availability, uptime, and an amount of production.

10 8. The charging system according to claim 5, wherein said charge amount determining means determines the charge amount by multiplying the calculated difference by a predetermined conversion rate.